

DOUBLE THE NUMBERS PLAN

What is the Double the Numbers plan?

In October 2007, the Council released *Double the Numbers: Kentucky's Plan to Increase College Graduates*. The plan elaborates on the 2020 imperative first articulated in the Public Agenda for Postsecondary and Adult Education – to double the number of working-age adults with a bachelor's degree or higher, from 402,000 in 2000 to nearly 800,000 in 2020. This goal was developed in response to House Bill 1, which calls for increases in educational attainment to raise the standard of living and quality of life to the national average by the year 2020.

How will this goal be accomplished?

Demographers predict that in 2020 one of every three Americans will have a bachelor's degree; in 2000, one in five Kentuckians had a bachelor's degree. If Kentucky's postsecondary system continues to perform at the current degree production rate, 580,000 degree holders will be produced, falling 211,000 short of the goal to double the numbers. With consultation from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and Kentucky's public colleges and universities, five essential strategies were developed to help close the gap:

1. *Raise high school graduation rates*—targets include raising the number of high school graduates from 40,000 to 48,000 and the percent of high school freshmen who graduate four years later from 72 to 81 percent.
2. *Increase the number of GED graduates and transition more to college*—targets include raising the annual number of GED graduates from 9,000 to 15,000 and their college-going rate from 19 to 36 percent.
3. *Enroll more first-time students in KCTCS and transfer them to four-year programs*—targets include increasing KCTCS enrollment from 86,500 to 115,900 and transfers from 4,500 to 11,300.
4. *Increase the number of Kentuckians going to and completing college*—targets include raising the annual number of bachelor's degrees awarded from 18,200 to 33,700 and the six-year graduation rate from 45 to 56 percent.
5. *Attract college-educated workers to the state and create new jobs for them*—targets include attracting 80,000 college-educated adults to Kentucky through increased job creation and economic development opportunities.

Is Kentucky making progress?

Kentucky is improving its educational attainment but must accelerate progress. Since 2000, the annual number of degrees and credentials has increased 62 percent. The Double the Numbers targets will be updated periodically over the next 12 years.

Where can I find more information?

More information about the Double the Numbers plan is available at www.cpe.ky.gov/doublethenumbers.